

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-17 are presently active in this case, Claims 10 and 11 having been amended by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,055). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant traverses the anticipatory rejection.

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments set forth herein as they merely clarify the outstanding issues, and since the amendments are believed to place the application into condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the Okimoto et al. reference is indicated as anticipating each of Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-17. However, the Applicant notes that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). As will be demonstrated below, the Okimoto et al. reference clearly does not meet each and every limitation of the independent Claims 1, 10, and 11.

Claim 1 recites, among other features, a printer driver having a function to convert the document data provided by said application program into a data format processible by an application program of an electronic mail receiver and a function to transmit the converted document data via electronic mail. Claim 10 recites, among

other features, converting document data into a predetermined data format by a printer driver, and transmitting the converted document data via electronic mail by an electronic mail transmitting function of the printer driver. Claim 11 recites, among other features, second program code means for converting document data into a predetermined data format, and third program code means for transmitting the converted document data via electronic mail using a printer driver. The significance of the above features lie in that, according to Applicant's invention, the printer driver has a function to transmit converted document data via email. Thus, the present invention does not need a separate electronic mail application in addition to the printer driver, in order to perform the functions of the present invention.

The outstanding Official Action relies on column 10, lines 17-31 of the Okimoto et al. reference, for the teaching of the printer driver recited in Claims 1, 10, and 11 of the present application. However, the Okimoto et al. reference describes that, while the printer driver (30) of the Okimoto et al. reference creates print data based on document data designated by an application program, it is the print mail transmission utility (31a) that creates a print mail, including the print data desired to be printed at the destination computer, and transmits the print mail to an SMTP server (32). (Column 10, lines 34-38.) The Okimoto et al. reference indicates that the print mail transmission utility (31a) is for creating print mail based on the print data supplied from the printer driver (30), and that the print mail transmission utility (31a) is for transmitting the print mail to the mail server (24). The print mail transmission utility (31a) is executed by the CPU (132) when a print mail transmission instruction is issued from the printer driver (30). (Column 8, lines 28-33.) After sending the file data and the

mail transmission command to the mail transmission utility (31a), the printer driver process ends. (Column 12, lines 25-27.)

The Okimoto et al. reference describes the print mail transmission utility process with reference to Figure 7, which requires the user to input various setting information in an application that is separate from the application that is separate from the application in which the data is originally created. (See, e.g., column 14, lines 25-43.) Such a process is precisely the type of process that the present invention attempts to avoid. (See page 4, lines 6-12, and page 4, line 24, through page 5, line 13, of the present application.)

Thus, the Okimoto et al. reference does not disclose a printer driver having a function to transmit converted document data via electronic mail as recited in Claim 1, or transmitting converted document data via electronic mail by an electronic mail transmitting function of a printer driver as recited in Claim 10, or third program code means for transmitting converted document data via electronic mail using a printer driver as recited in Claim 11. In the Okimoto et al. reference, the print driver (30) is not disclosed as being configured to transmit converted document data via electronic mail. Thus, contrary to the present invention, the invention of the Okimoto et al. reference requires a separate print mail transmission utility (31a) in addition to the printer driver (30), in order to transmit converted document data via electronic mail.

The Applicant notes that the printer driver (30) of the Okimoto et al. reference is capable of creating print data, and outputting the print data to the printer (6) to print the print data. (Column 8, lines 20-22.) However, such print data is not transmitted via electronic mail. Additionally, the Applicant notes that the printer driver (30) of the Okimoto et al.

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reference is capable of creating cancel mail and transmitting the cancel mail to the mail server (24). (Column 8, lines 23-24.) However, the cancel mail does not include converted document data, as recited in the claims of the present application.

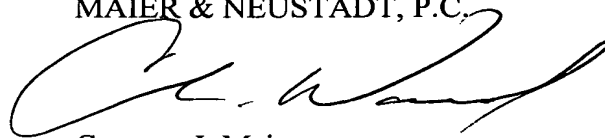
Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the obviousness rejections of independent Claims 1, 10, and 11.

The dependent claims are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for the independent claims from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of their respective independent claim.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

GJM:CDW:brf

I:\atty\cdw\0557\0557 4774\am2.doc

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367